UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/914
S/23888
7 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 68
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 7 May 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Nordic Governments I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Nordic Foreign Ministers on the situation in former Yugoslavia, issued at their meeting in Helsinki on 4 May 1992.

As regards the position of the Nordic countries concerning the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia", reference is made to the third paragraph in the above-mentioned statement.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and the attached statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tauno KÄÄRIÄ
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Finland
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the Nordic Foreign Ministers on the situation in former Yugoslavia issued at Helsinki on 4 May 1992

The Foreign Ministers condemned the escalation of violence in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They urged all parties to abstain from the use of force and apply only peaceful means to achieve political goals. The Ministers stressed that the international community would not accept a situation brought about by force.

The Ministers objected in particular to the unscrupulous use of heavy weapons by the so-called Yugoslav National Army against the capital of Bosnia-Hercegovina and other populated areas. The Yugoslav National Army has clearly and flagrantly breached the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and of international law by operating on the territory of the independent State of Bosnia-Hercegovina and particularly by detaining the President of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Yugoslav National Army must withdraw from Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The question of the recognition of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" recently formed by Serbia and Montenegro should be solved in the same manner as in the case of the other republics - Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia - on the basis of the principles of the Brussels Conference. The issue of succession should be solved within the framework of the Peace Conference by all States on the territory of a disintegrated Yugoslavia.

The Ministers consider it essential that the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" adhere to the principles of CSCE in a credible manner, particularly concerning non-intervention in internal affairs, inviolability of frontiers and respect for the rights of minorities.

The Foreign Ministers gave their full support to the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia under the auspices of the European Economic Community (EEC) as well as to EEC's efforts to contribute to a peaceful solution of the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They condemned the fatal shooting of the Belgian observer Major Bertrand Borrey and expressed their deepest sympathy to his family.

The Nordic countries consider it important that CSCE continue to exert efforts to achieve a calmer situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Nordic Foreign Ministers consider that developments in former Yugoslavia confirm that CSCE's executive capacity should be strengthened and that CSCE should also acquire a peace-keeping role on the European continent, in cooperation with other international organizations.

The Foreign Ministers urged all parties to support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. They urged those responsible to allow the transportation of international emergency aid to those affected by the fighting and to enable refugees to return to their homes.

The Ministers reaffirmed their willingness to work for a future in a democratic society for the peoples in former Yugoslavia who have liberated themselves from dictatorship. This is the only way to bring about a just solution to the antagonisms in the region and a future in peace and prosperity.